

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02843 221511Z
ACTION NEA-10

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/040 W

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R 221337Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5829
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
ABU DHABI 0055 ZFF
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IS, JO, EG, PDEV, PFOR
SUBJECT: MFA OFFICIAL BELIEVES MAYORS WILL RECEIVE PROMISES,
NOT MONEY

REF: TEL AVIV 2241

1. THE MFA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE TERRITORIES (GONEN) TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 20 THAT
THE GOI'S ATTITUDE TOWARD MUNICIPALITIES IN THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES RECEIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM ARAB OIL
COUNTRIES WOULD BE GOVERNED BY TWO PRINCIPLES. WE
WILL WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE MONEY IS COMING FROM AND
WHAT IT IS GOING TO BE USED FOR, GONEN SAID. SUCH MONIES
COULD BE USED BY THE MUNICIPALITIES ONLY FOR APPROVED
PROJECTS (I.E., ISRAELI APPROVED). TWO POSSIBLE PROJECTS,
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GONEN SAID, WERE ELECTRICAL POWER GENERATORS FOR
HEBRON AND NABLUS, (BUT HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER THE
GOI WOULD GIVE ITS APPROVAL).

2. THUS FAR JERICHO HAS RECEIVED 20-30 THOUSAND
DINARS AND BEIT JALA 200,000 DINARS. NO OTHER
MONIES HAVE YET MATERIALIZED, GONEN SAID, DESPITE

REPORTS AND PROMISES OF LARGER SUMS.

3. GONEN REFERRED TO REPORTS THAT THE PLO INTENDS TO SPEND "50 MILLION" IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, BUT WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THEM. (COMMENT: GONEN PASSED UP SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SPECIFY 50 MILLION WHAT. HE ALSO AVOIDED SAYING EXPLICITLY THAT THE GOI WOULD NOT PERMIT PLO CONNECTED FUNDS FROM ENTERING THE TERRITORIES, BUT MADE IT QUITE CLEAR NEVERTHELESS THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO PREVENT SUCH DEVELOPMENTS.)

4. ASKED WHETHER NEW OUTSIDE FINANCIAL SOURCES WOULD STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL MAYORS VIS-A-VIS AMMAN, GONEN, WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO BOTSWANA, SWAZILAND AND LESOTHO, REPONDED WITH AN ANALOGY. "SOME AFRICAN LEADERS USED TO COMPLAIN TO ME THAT BY MAINTIANING THEIR RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL THEY WERE LOSING POTENTIAL SUPPORT FROM THE ARABS. I TOLD THEM THAT THEY SHOULD FEEL FREE TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL ONCE THEY HAD A CHECK IN THEIR HANDS." REFERRING AGAIN TO THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, GONEN SAID THAT THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THEY WILL EVER RECEIVE MUCH MORE THAN PROMISES. FURTHERMORE, HE ADDED, THERE IS NO REASON WHY JORDAN, WHICH THINKS OF ITSELF AS THE ALTERNATIVE TO THE PLO, WOULD PERMIT PLO-TAINTED FUNDS TO BE CHanneled TO THE TERRITORIES VIA JORDAN.

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5. GONEN MENTIONED THAT MAYOR QAWASMEH OF HEBRON INTENDS TO VISIT AMMAN SOON, AND IS TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR HIMSELF AS CORDIAL A RECEPTION AS THAT ACCORDED SHEIKH JAABARY A FEW MONTHS AGO.

6. COMMENT: GONEN'S STATEMENT THAT THE MUNICIPALITIES HAVE RECEIVED LITTLE MONEY THUS FAR ACCORDS WITH A SIMILAR VIEW EXPRESSED TO US SEVERAL WEEKS AGO BY THE MFA'S DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EAST DIVISION (VERED). DUNNIGAN

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